

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 19-24 are pending in this Application.

Claims 19-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabuchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,208).

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mabuchi in view of Kawasaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,068,680).

With this response claims 19-23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 24 is amended, and new claims 25-28 are added.

II. Comments

The references Mabuchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,438,208) and Kawasaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,068,680), taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the lens device of claim 25.

The lens device of claim 25 includes “a camera interface board that conforms a lens control signal to a predetermined data format of said lens device”, wherein the “lens control signal is received from [an] attached camera”.

The lens device is “attachable to a camera employing a first data format for said lens control signal” and is “attachable to a camera employing a second data format for said lens control signal”, “wherein said first format and said second format differ by at least one of position voltage, reference voltage, voltage width, and polarity”.

Mabuchi fails, for instance, to disclose that data format (e.g., position voltage,

reference voltage, voltage width, and/or polarity) for a particular sort of communications signal (e.g., focus control signal, iris control signal, or zoom control signal) differs among different cameras.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 24-28 are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4527. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that additional extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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